

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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DODE-00 PM-07 L-03 NASA-04 NSC-07 SCI-06 COME-00

NAS-01 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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SUBJ: SIXTH SESSION WMO TROPICAL EXPERIMENT BOARD (TEB) FOR
(GATE), 8-11 APRIL, 1974, GENEVA

1. THE SIXTH SESSION OF TEB CONCLUDED APRIL 11. ELEVEN MEMBERS PARTICIPATED, RE-ELECTING DR JOHN MASON (UK), AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL NEXT SESSION.

2. THIS SESSION, THE LAST BEFORE THE GATE FIELD PHASE THIS SUMMER, IDENTIFIED ONLY A FEW SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE EXPERIMENT COMMENCES. BOARD UNANIMOUSLY CONCURRED THAT THE EXPERIMENT SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED, BUT ADOPTED SEVERAL SPECIFIC MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS.

3. NEARLY ALL MAJOR GATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS NOW PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPANTS. AT THIS SESSION FINAL SECTION OF SEVEN-PART INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN (TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN) WAS SUBMITTED TO TEB. THE INTERNATIONAL GATE DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN ALSO APPROVED.

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4. PARTICIPANTS CONFIRMED THAT MAJOR RESOURCES NECESSARY TO CONDUCT FIELD PHASE WOULD BE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING AT LEAST 39 RESEARCH SHIPS, 13 INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT, AND SUBSTANTIAL FACILITIES AT DAKAR.

5. THE REQUIREMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFFING OF THE GATE OPERATIONS CONTROL CENTER AT DAKAR, A PROBLEM AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS, HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY EASED BY THE NOMINATION OF PARTICIPANTS BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE USSR, FRANCE, UK AND FRG AS WELL AS USA. NO CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES NOW REMAIN.

6. POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES DUE TO FUEL CRISIS, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, AND DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES NO LONGER APPEAR THREAT TO GATE.

7. TEB EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING DELAYS IN PLANNED LAUNCHES OF US SATELLITES SMS-A AND NIMBUS-F. TEB CONCLUDED THAT US SATELLITE CONTINGENCY PLANS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER COMMITTED RESOURCES, JUSTIFIED PROCEEDING WITH EXPERIMENT AS SCHEDULED.

8. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS REPORTED CONTINUED DIFFICULTIES WITH OMEGA WIND FINDING SYSTEM. TEB AGREED THAT FAILURE OF THIS SYSTEM WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE ENTIRE EXPERIMENT, AND EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN. A NUMBER OF URGENT SPECIFIC ACTIONS WERE AGREED UPON BY THE PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED. A MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS WILL BE HELD AT BEUKERS LABORATORIES, NY, ON 24 APRIL TO FOLLOW-UP.

9. INTERNATIONAL GATE FILM PROJECT LEFT INDETERMINATE BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS. FILM CONTRACTORS RECENT ESTIMATE OF \$72,000 LEAVES DEFICIT OF \$42,000 WITH US ONLY PARTICIPANT PREPARED TO MAKE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION. BOARD ASKED ISMG TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY ELIMINATING INTERNATIONAL FILMING AND TO RELY ENTIRELY ON NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF FILM FOOTAGE.

10. FUTURE OF GATE INSTITUTIONS AGREED AS FOLLOWS: ISMG TO DISBAND MARCH 1975; TEB TO BE CONTINUED WITH ALTERED AND PERHAPS EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP AND NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE; TWO INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS TO BE SET UP AT UNCLASSIFIED

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WMO SECRETARIAT, GENEVA; ONE TO MONITOR DATA MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ONE SCIENTIST TO COORDINATE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TOWARD THE OVERALL SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES. SOME CONTROVERSIAL ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS ON THE LATTER WERE LEFT FOR WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

11. NEXT TEB MEETING IN GENEVA ABOUT FEBRUARY 1975 AFTER THE FIELD PHASE REPORT IS AVAILABLE. MILLER

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